those I had written for local publications. They could have broken down my defense if they had limited the charge to the latter, but they wished to bring the whole bill of particulars against me. The officer who questioned me became angry and threatened to get me. Confident of my legal position, I told him that any attorney to whom his superiors would direct my case for trial would tell them they were ignoramuses and were trying to handle matters that were above their heads. "You will soon learn whether or not we are ignoramuses!" he fumed.

A month later I was set free. For some reason, this time I found a comparatively brief spell of solitary confinement rather depressing. I felt tired and sought rest in a trip to the steppes and mountains at the Mongolian border. Completely relaxed, I returned to Ussolye, planning to spend the end of the summer there. But at Ussolye I found that the village sheriff had an order to deliver me to the Irkutsk jail. The warrant was written on a crumpled sheet torn from a notebook and the reference to the law was illegible, but the situation was clear: the gendarmes had reopened my case.

Again I was confined to a solitary cell. Six weeks passed. The assistant inspector of prisons came to inspect the jail. When he came to my cell and asked if I had complaints, I answered, "I would like to know the legal reason for my detention."

"You are serving your two-year term," he replied.

"What term? I have not been tried."

"Your case—criminal propaganda against war—was tried in a police court *in absentia*. . . . The police have the right to try deportees in this way for minor violations. You know—a simplified procedure, no lawyers admitted, presence of the defendant not mandatory."

I knew about this simplified police-court procedure in handling minor offenses committed by criminal deportees, such as disorderly conduct and petty theft, but it had never been applied to political cases. I wrote a complaint to the Governor General immediately, accusing the local gendarmes and police of having arbitrarily assumed jurisdiction in a case that could be tried only in the courts in Petrograd, the place where the alleged crimes had been committed. I also pointed out that a body ignorant of the limits of its own jurisdiction should not be permitted to pass sentence on books and articles even if the writer happened to live in the territory where this body might have jurisdiction over such offenses as a drunken brawl.

I sent the complaint to the prison office. Half an hour later the assistant superintendent came to return my petition. "You will have to rewrite your complaint," he instructed me. "It contains disrespectful remarks against the authorities."

"I shall not change a single word," I said. "The moment the paper